Ban by German Government on imports of textile printed with azodyes

3062. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a tact that the ban imposed by the German Government on import of textiles printed in azodyes is likely to cause a serious set back to the printed textile industry; and

(b) if so, the steps have so far been taken by Government on the request made in this regard by the Government of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (to) Government have initiated a number of steps to help the Indian textile industry to meet the situation arising out of German legislation banning the use of certain azo dyes and chemicals in textile products put up for sale in Germany. The steps taken in this regard include upgradation arid expansion of textile laboratories in the country, including Rajasthan; conducting a large number of extension workshops, seminars etc. with a view to creating an awareness among textile trade and industry regarding the eco-specifieation requirements of major importing countries and for the dyes to be used for production of eco friendly textiles etc.

Restoration of peace in Assam

3063. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:,

(a) whether steps are being taken by Government for restoration of peace in Assam;

(b) if so, the achievement made in this regard; and

(c) the details of new initiatives proposed to be taken in tis regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The steps taken for the restoration of peace in Assam include, inter alia, the deployment of army and Central Para Military Forces, the State being notified as "Disturbed Area:, prominent insurgent groups being declared as 'unlawful' associations' under the "Unlawful Activities ' (Prevention) Act, 1967 and strengthening and upgradation of the intelligence machinery. Simultaneously, steps continue to be taken for promoting accelerated economic development, particularly with a view to improving the basic infrastructure.

The Government of India categorically rejects violence as a means of achieving any objective. It believes in solution of problems through talks and negotiations. It is prepared for talks with any groups which is willing to work within the framework of the Constitution of India and abjure violence.

Buffar stock of Raw Jute

3064. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have requested the Indian Jute Manufactures Federation or private sector's jute mill owners for making buffer stock of raw jute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) the total quantity of jute required by the nationalised jute mills;

(e) whether the requirement is being met by the Jute Corporation of India;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF TAXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c) In the current sesson 1996-97 although crop is expected to be a reasonable one it is premature to consider the question.

(d) The toal quantity of jute required by nationalised jute mills is 8,80,000 quintals of raw jute.

(e) to (g) No part of their requirement is being met by the Jute Corporation of India. Jute Corporation of India has not undertaken Price Support Operations during last two years.